

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At present, no scheduled air services are available in the State of Sikkim as there is no airport in Sikkim. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. is operating helicopter services on the Gangtok-Bagdogra-Gangtok sector. There is a proposal for construction of a greenfield airport at Pakyong, Sikkim at an approx. cost of Rs. 340 crores. The North Eastern Council (NEC) had commissioned a feasibility study by the Foundation for Aviation and Sustainable Tourism (FAST), New Delhi for improving air connectivity and starting a regional airlines for the North Eastern Region (NER). The report submitted by FAST has been examined by a Committee under the Chairmanship of H.E. the Governor of Manipur. In its report submitted to the NEC on 31.10.2006, the Committee has recommended (i) setting up of a North-Eastern regional airline through public private partnership or (ii) provision of minimum subsidy to airlines through a Reverse Bidding Process to operate the required services in the NER. The proposal is under consideration of the NEC.

Private participation in upgradation of airports

580. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to allow private sector companies to take part in upgradation of 35 non-metro airports and this would open up numerous business opportunities to Indian companies interested in airport development;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this new idea includes permission for private sector in management of terminal like check-in-areas, security hold and passenger amenities at the non-metro airports; and

(c) if so, the other details of the new plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The city side development of the 35 Non-metro airports scheduled for upgradation would be through Public Private Partnership (PPPs).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Development of all the 35 non-metro airports are taken up simultaneously under the authority and responsibility of Airports Authority of India (AAI).